



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 15

Meeting Date: January 13, 2006
Meeting Location: Ripley County DCS

Council Members Present:

Melissa Norman; Stacey Beauchamp, Mary Riede, India Turner, Cindi Wagner, Traci Eggleston, and Judge Carl Taul.

Council Members Absent:

Rob King, Judge Ted Todd and Judge James Humphrey

Others In Attendance: White's Institute; Teresa Nobbe, Admin. Assistant

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:00 a.m.

- I. Minutes from last meeting were approved as presented.
- II. Provider Discussion – Melissa explained the role of Lisa Rich as the Regional Coordinator for IV-B.
 - A. Community Mental Health – Concerns that they might not be able to handle something of this magnitude. They write excellent grants, but fall short on following thru and have a high rate of turnover in personnel. It was noted that any agency awarded a contract needs to know they will be held accountable for services provided and if not performed satisfactorily their contract may be terminated.
 - B. It was asked if we could look outside our region for a provider and Melissa stated because we had a provider within our region submit a bid we could not. Melissa was going to see if she could get a copy of the proposal sent in by Children's Bureau for a comparison. *****It should be noted that after some follow up, Region 15 could solicit agency proposals from other regions.**
 - C. Preventative Aftercare is to be considered even though we don't have a copy of their proposal. They are currently working on it.
 - D. Start Healthy – they also proposed for Community Partners for Child Safety. This agency is expanding, but staff may be more suitable to Homemaker services.

- E. We need assurance from providers they will have adequate staff to follow through with contracted services.
- F. Discussed Dunnbrook services (Laporte Child Abuse Prevention) – They will not provide the service but rather train staff and providers on this program so we can implement ourselves.
- G. After much discussion it was decided certain areas (foster parent training) would benefit from regional contract, but the problem was getting providers to service all counties in the region. YOC offers training but not locally and usually has very few slots left. It was noted that local trainings were a big need. It was suggested Protect Our Children be contacted to see if they were interested in branching out to the region. Lisa Rich will have to be the contact person. If we decide we aren't happy with the YOC contract and no other provider will serve region-wide, can we open contracts back up? Melissa will check on that.
- H. It was also decided that we need to prioritize regional contract proposals (vs. county proposals). When deciding we need to focus on services as we can negotiate a price later.
- I. Regional Manager & Directors will meet the 1st part of February to decide which contracts we want so that at the next meeting we can spend our meeting time making recommendations to the RSC with regard to these providers.

III. Child Welfare Services Fund

- A. Melissa asked for large contracts provided out of CW Services Fund. Decatur has a \$25,000 contract for a Family Court Facilitator (1/2 of the salary); Dearborn provides \$40,000 to Probation for services that are currently provided by White's Institute. .

IV. SSBG – Handout - India asked if the definition for use of funds has broadened (they have always been very restrictive in the past). Melissa will check with Lisa.

V. Regional 15 Service Standards –Handout – All counties responded they need all the services.

- A. Discussion as to what we still lack...Sexual AB counseling, etc. and Substance Abuse treatment. Ripley & Dearborn County have a great provider – would he be interested in expanding? He also provides training for workers as well. India will send his information to other Directors. Dearborn also utilizes Dr. Connors and will send his information as well.
- B. It was discussed and decided that we need to prioritize the top goals for services needed as a region.
- C. Also discussed to possibly work on a Regional Child Advocacy Center (with LEA, hospital, Judges, prosecutors, educators, etc.) and tap into grants that are available. India will check with Dana Riddle who is in Versailles and will help with writing grants and finding money to utilize.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. January 31st from 1-3 pm is the Field trip to NACS. Location to be determined. Let Melissa know (via e-mail) if you plan to attend and any questions you want answered.
- B. Amy Phillips was recommended as the foster parent candidate for the council. Mary Riede made the motion; India seconded and all in favor.
- C. India made a motion to make the Focus of the Regional Service Council to develop a Regional Child Advocacy Center. Traci seconded and all in favor.
- D. Provider Fair – Melissa passed it on to Stacy Lozer. Apparently other regions had the same interest and IYI has offered to work with DCS to put one on in each Region. Each regional council will have input to tailor to their regional needs. IYI will be funding these and they are looking at late spring/early summer.
- E. All were in agreement to provide the following funding: (Cindi read amount and explanation of services provided for each) Jefferson Co. funds to BB/BS; Jefferson Co. funds to Turning Point in Columbus; Switzerland County funds to YMCA. Mary Riede then read amount and explanation of services for each: Dearborn Co. to Community Mental Health and Ohio Co. to Community Mental Health.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:

February 17, 2006, State Police Post, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:00 p.m.